

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-25, 27-31 and 33-38 remain in the application.

Claims 38-40 are new.

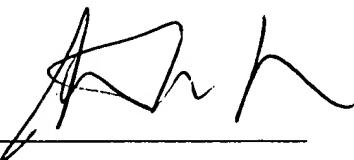
Group II, claims 4-12, 14-25, and 27-31 and 33-37 are hereby elected, with traverse to prosecute Group I together therewith.

Claims 13, 26 and 31 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 are linked to the elected group, and that the election requirement with respect to Group I and II be withdrawn.

The elected group consists of claims directed to a method of making a porous silica granule or powder via a hydrolysis method. Claims 1-4 are respectfully submitted to be linked to the elected group through linking claims 38-40, which provide a product by process and method for producing the claimed product. It is respectfully submitted that these groups now represent the same invention, or are so closely related that the administrative burden on the Office would not be so great as to require restriction.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

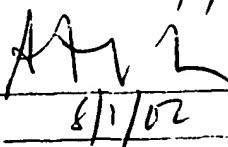
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